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## Kennedy's Agonizing Decision

The United States has lost face the world over as a result of the Cuban fiasco. Failure of the anti-Castro invasion possibly is the greatest blow at our international prestige since we became engaged in the cold war with communism.

President Kennedy has assumed full responsibility for "the events of the past days." Others in the administration — principally Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall — attempted to pass the blame on the Eisenhower Administration.

Just as the credit for success would have fallen to President Kennedy, so must the responsibility for the Cuban disaster be taken by him. Only the President can make the crucial decisions.

It is true the United States for months has aided anti-Castro Cubans in planning strategy aimed at unseating Castro from his uneasy throne as Communist-backed dictator of Cuba. When President Kennedy assumed office, it became his responsibility to determine on the basis of advice, when the time, the atmosphere and Castro's defenses were ripe for a major movement by counter-revolutionists.

The President could have halted the training or disassociated this country from the invasion planning. To his credit, he did not.

It seems clear there were serious miscalculations by the anti-Castro forces and by departments of the United States government — perhaps the Central Intelligence Agency, perhaps the Joint Chiefs of Staff, perhaps both. The extent of blame cannot be fully assessed. No one outside the White House is in full possession of all the facts.

It adds little to the situation to have a sudden, wild scramble to investigate the CIA, first by recalling Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor — then adding Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to the probing board and finally enlarging it to include Adm. Arleigh Burke, U. S. chief of naval operations. Investigation is called for. But the hurried, publicized, haphazard attempt to put together the group only brings confusion. We appear frightened.

When all the factors are added, the President must be held responsible for his unaccountable failure to prepare for the worst. Inexcusably, the plans were based only on success. President Kennedy announced the United States would not intervene and then amazingly failed to support the U. S.-trained forces even half way, let alone fully.

In the eyes of a critical world, this was the worst mistake.

Looking to the future, we must hope that the President will profit from experience. He has acted wisely in seeking the advice and support of former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman as well as former Vice President Nixon and other leaders of both parties.

The road ahead is difficult and the President can act more surely with the knowledge of bi-partisan support.

The United States cannot stand by and allow the Communists to build an arsenal 90 miles from shore. Cuba today poses only direct danger to the United States but indirectly, through possible Latin America infiltration, its potential threat is great.

A sea blockade to prevent further shipments of military supplies to Castro must be considered. Air patrols for observation definitely are in order. We must be prepared for the possibility that U.S. troops will become involved.

We cannot under any circumstances condone blatant encroachment of communism in the Americas.

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